

Fairfax United Methodist Church Connection

Love God, Build Disciples, Connect Believers, Serve Neighbors

December 2, 2018

Welcome Guests

If you have prayers you would like the staff to lift up or to be on the prayer list, please complete one of the cards in the pew.

Please visit our website at www.fairfaxumc.org, follow us on twitter @FairfaxUMC and on Facebook. Like us today!

The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God.

Welcome! During the Advent and Christmas season, Fairfax Church especially extends a warm welcome to visiting families and friends and guests. Please become a part of our ministries—no matter where you live, how frequently you attend services, where your religious roots are, your involvement and gifts are needed and greatly appreciated. We offer convenient electronic giving from our website at www.fairfaxumc.org or giving by TEXT at 703-991-0979. Thank you for your presence and generosity. Merry Christmas!

Multiply the Blessings at Fairfax Church! As we thank God for our blessings, a large crowd in our community and around the world await the sharing of our blessings. As we look toward these new opportunities for ministries, we give thanks for \$802,801 in pledged gifts toward our 2019 Operating Budget. *If you have not offered your gift yet*, please complete a Faithful Giving Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering today. If you give electronically, please update your gift at www.fairfaxumc.org. We give thanks for your generosity and commitment to the ministry of Christ through this congregation and the world.

Sanctuary Improvements Information Session today at 10:30am in Room 115. The FUMC Strategic Plan includes modernizing technology in the Sanctuary. Thanks to a special gift, the Sanctuary is scheduled to begin improvements in January 2019. This includes reconfiguring the Choir to face the congregation for better musical sound. Additionally, an upgraded sound system and monitors will enhance visibility and sound quality. The Trustees will have an information session today at 10:30am in Room 115 to share more about these exciting improvements.

If you want to talk to someone about your feelings of sadness, loneliness, or grief during the darkest, longest nights of the year, we encourage you to talk with one of our Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are well-trained lay caregivers who provide confidential, Christ-centered care and a listening presence to all people. For more information, please contact Daryl Witherspoon at 678-850-6953 or Pastor Amy Grant at 703-591-3120. *During the Christmas season*, a Stephen Minister is available during the 9:30 service in the Narthex and after the service in the Chapel for anyone who would like to speak with someone or just get a friendly hug.

2018 Advent Study begins today and continues next Sunday. Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in faith, friendship, and joy this Christmas season? *The Case for Christmas: Evidence for the Identity of Jesus* is a four-week Advent Study lead by Pamela Kipps, our pastoral intern. Written by former atheist Lee Strobel (author of the bestseller *The Case for Christ*), this study invites you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenges you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider the personal significance of this important Christian celebration. The study begins today at 10:45, and a duplicate session at 12:30 in Room 112. Pick your days, and time and come grow with us!

New Director of Family and Children's Ministry selected—We are delighted to announce Jane Ciorba will move from an interim position to Director of Family and Children's Ministry on January 1, 2019. Jane is a seasoned educator with degrees in Child Care Education, Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Moving from Oklahoma in 2017, she has since become an integral part of both the Learning and Mission Pillar teams. Jane transferred her membership to FUMC last Sunday, so please continue welcoming her to our church staff and family.

Pancake Breakfast and Children's Event—The Fairfax United Methodist Men are serving breakfast on Saturday morning, December 8th from 8:00 to 10:00am. Children's activities are offered from 9:00-10am. *Alive!*, FUMC youth drama, is presenting a short interactive Christmas drama, followed by special children's Christmas arts and crafts from 9:00-10:00am. The menu is pancakes (regular or blueberry), scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits, sausage gravy, and grits. The price of the meal is your generous donation to support the Lamb Center or a new unwrapped toy to be a part of Fairfax Church's Holiday Market for families in our community. Please come and enjoy the food and great fellowship!

Holiday Market is on Friday, December 14 from 5:00-7:30pm. If you are holiday shopping, consider adding Providence Elementary and other community families in need to your list for the Holiday Market. FUMC needs the following donations for children from birth to 18 years old: new "in the package" toys, new/gently used coats and books, and \$20 Gift Cards to Walmart for presents and Christmas dinner. Our goal is one new toy per child and we hope to serve 150 children. The deadline is December 11th to bring your gifts to church and place in the large designated receptacles. Gift cards should be placed in the small basket in the Main Office.

Volunteers are also needed for The Holiday Market. There are supervised activities and a light meal for the children while parents shop and a giftwrap room for the parents to festively wrap their child's toy. Please sign up at <http://bit.ly/fumc-holidaymarket> to volunteer. Sign up for as many time slots as you prefer. Let us bless others at this blessed time of year!

It's Christmas time! The Fairfax United Methodist Women are selling cards from 10:30 to 11:15 today. Please come down and take a look at holiday cards , ornaments and all occasion cards that might be just what you need. All proceeds are designated to support the Holiday Market and holiday family sponsorships.

The Mitten Tree is displayed in the Narthex throughout Advent. Please decorate the Mitten Tree with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks. There are people in our community who need warm clothing for their families this winter. We can help by sharing. Hand-crafted clothing is also most welcomed. For additional information or cash donations, contact Juanita Lewis at 703-620-4174 or JL48765@gmail.com.

Honduras Mission Information Session, Sunday December 9, 10:30am in Room 310. Rev. Glen Evan is at FUMC to give an orientation for the January Honduras mission team to HIBS, Honduran Independence Bilingual School. Our team is helping to construct a new education wing at HIBS on January 7-14; however, anyone who is interested in mission work in Honduras is invited to attend. Two schools in Honduras, HIBS and the primary school in Barrio Cabanas, San Pedro Sula, need the following supplies in January: Glue sticks, dry erase markers, kids' scissors, tooth brushes, vitamins (multi, women's and kids (please no "gummy" variety), colored pencils, and plastic pencil boxes. Collection boxes will be in the rear of the Sanctuary starting December 16 or bring to Rev. Bonney's office. Also, a financial donation helps provide construction, medical and food assistance to these schools. For more information, please contact Andrea Kennedy at andreakennedy80@gmail.com or Rev. Bonney at dbonney@fairfaxumc.org

This Week's Calendar
December 2-8, 2018

SUNDAY	8:15 am	Service of Word & Communion, Sanctuary	
	9:30 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary	
	10:30 am	New Life International UMC, Multi-Purpose Room, 306-308,	
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Improvements Information Session, Room 115	
	10:45 am	Advent Study: <i>The Case for Christmas</i> , Room 112	
	11:15 am	Modern Worship Service, Sanctuary	
	12:30 pm	Advent Study: <i>The Case for Christmas</i> , Room 112	
	12:00 pm	New Life International UMC, Fellowship Hall	
	2:30 pm	Alleluia Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room	
	3:30 pm	Hosanna Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room	
	6:00 pm	Fusion UMYE, Youth Activity Room, Catering Kitchen, Sanctuary	
	MONDAY	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts Den Meeting, 112, 113, 115
		6:15 pm	Women's Club of Fairfax, Multi-Purpose Room
6:30 pm		Bellissimo Ringers, Bell Room (215)	
7:00 pm		Cub Scouts Den Meeting, 112, 115	
7:15 pm		Boy Scout Troop 187 Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 113	
TUESDAY	10:00 am	Staff Meeting, Conference Room	
	6:30 pm	Fairfax City 4-H Community Club, 306	
	7:00 pm	Alive! Youth Drama Rehearsal, Youth Activity Room	
	7:00 pm	Mission Pillar Team, Multi-Purpose Room	
WEDNESDAY	9:30 am	Playgroup	
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Amy Grant, Room 112	
THURSDAY	7:30 pm	Open Doors Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary	
FRIDAY	9:30 am	Preschool Christmas Practice, Sanctuary	
	3:00 pm	FACETS Meal Preparation, Main Kitchen	
SATURDAY	8:00 am	UMM Pancake Breakfast with <i>Alive!</i> Youth Christmas Drama & Children's Crafts, Fellowship Hall, Main Kitchen	
	10:00 am	New Life International UMC, Multi-Purpose Room, Catering Kitchen	
	10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room	

Christmas Worship Opportunities

December 16 at 9:30am

Service of Lessons and Carols

The Chancel Choir leads worship in celebrating the season of Advent and the coming of Christ by remembering the biblical story through scripture and song in this special service.

Christmas Eve, December 24

Daylight Christmas Eve Service at 1:00 pm

For those who wish to celebrate the Birth of Christ during the daylight hours, this service includes traditional carols, a powerful message, time for prayer and reflection, and a celebration of Holy Communion. Ideally suited for those with difficulties traveling at night, other evening engagements, or those preferring to be home early; we pray this worship opportunity fills you with the love of Christ.

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 pm

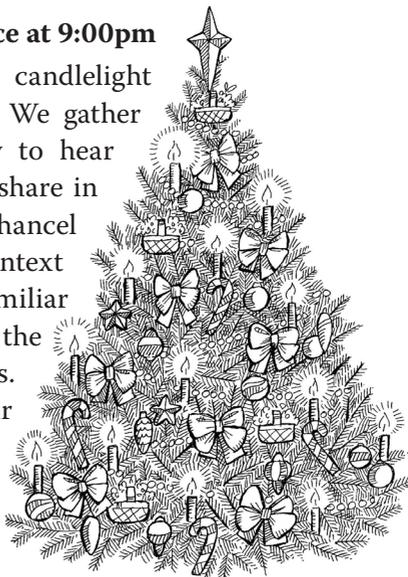
The Family Service is a pageant bringing to life the Christmas story for children and families in a meaningful way. The Children's Choirs are presenting *Away in a Manger* to inspire families through the recreation of the Christmas story.

Modern Candlelight Service at 7:00pm

For a more modern worship experience this Christmas, be a part of this celebration of Christ's birth. Led by our Open Doors music team, this worship experience provides engaging music, an inspiring message, Holy Communion, and the beauty of candlelight.

Traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00pm

Be a part of our traditional candlelight service of Holy Communion. We gather in the warmth of community to hear the story of Christ's birth and share in the holy meal together. The Chancel Choir offers a rich musical context for the congregation to sing familiar carols as together we reflect on the significance of Christ in our lives. The service closes lifting our voices to God in a shimmer of candlelight.



2018 Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, you may place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary to be used in each of our services on December 16 and 24. Contributions may also be made to United Methodist Family Services or Endowment Giving as a very special commemoration of a life well lived. Please complete the form below. Place it in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office along with your check for \$9.00 per poinsettia or for the desired amount of your contribution. Checks should be made payable to FUMC. Please staple your check to this form. Orders must reach the church office no later than noon on December 10, in order for the plants to be delivered in time.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service.

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Please mark with number desired:

_____ Red _____ White _____ Marble

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

GIVEN BY

PHONE NUMBER

If you would like to make a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one to United Methodist Family Services or Endowment Giving, please complete:

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

Please make check(s) payable to FUMC.

\$ _____ Flowers

\$ _____ United Methodist Family Services

\$ _____ Endowment

\$ _____ TOTAL

Serving Us Today

December 2, 2018

8:15 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Gloria Joyce
Jim Joyce
William McCurdy
Deyane Rudge

Acolyte

Jack Williams

Worship Leader

Leslie Carter

Chris Burke

Our Giving

November 25, 2018

Weekly Giving	\$	29,234
Year-to-date	\$	1,050,394
Budget-to-date	\$	1,155,025
Attendance		261



Fairfax United Methodist Church

10300 Stratford Avenue • Fairfax, VA 22030

703-591-3120 • www.fairfaxumc.org

David J. Bonney

Lead Pastor

dbonney@fairfaxumc.org

Elizabeth P. Barricks

Administrative Ministries

lbarricks@fairfaxumc.org

Jane Ciorba

Children's Ministries

jciorba@fairfaxumc.org

Pamela Kipps

Wesley Pastoral Intern

pkipps@fairfaxumc.org

Amy Grant

Associate Pastor

agrant@fairfaxumc.org

Linda Burke

Executive Director

lburke@fairfaxumc.org

Kyle Johnson

Youth/Missions Ministries

kjohnson@fairfaxumc.org

Diana Jenkins

Weekday Preschool

preschool@fairfaxumc.org

Minoo W. Kim

Church Plant Pastor

minookim@vaumc.org

Charles & Diane Whittaker

Interim Music Ministries

cwhittaker@fairfaxumc.org

Rachel Ackerman

Children's Music Ministries

rackerman@fairfaxumc.org

Chris Burke

Modern Worship

cburke@fairfaxumc.org